

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON DIVISION**

Jonathan Wells	)	<b>MDL NO. 2873</b>
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	<b>Master Docket No: 2:18-mn-2873-RMG</b>
	)	
v.	)	<b>JUDGE RICHARD GERGEL</b>
	)	
3M COMPANY (f/k/a Minnesota) Mining	)	<b>Civil Action No: 2:23-cv-07048-RMG</b>
and Manufacturing Company);	)	
AGC CHEMICALS AMERICAS INC.;	)	
ALLSTAR FIRE EQUIPMENT;	)	
AMEREX CORPORATION;	)	
ARCHROMA U.S. INC.;	)	
ARKEMA, INC.;	)	
BASF CORPORATION;	)	
BUCKEYE FIRE EQUIPMENT	)	
COMPANY;	)	
CARRIER FIRE & SECURITY	)	
CORPORATION;	)	
CARRIER GLOBAL CORPORATION;	)	
CHEMDESIGN PRODUCTS, INC.;	)	
CHEMGUARD, INC.;	)	
CHEMICALS, INC.;	)	
CHEMOURS COMPANY FC, LLC;	)	
CHUBB FIRE, LTD;	)	
CLARIANT CORP.;	)	
CORTEVA, INC.;	)	
DAIKIN AMERICA INC.;	)	
DEEPWATER CHEMICALS, INC.;	)	
DU PONT DE NEMOURS INC. (f/k/a	)	
DOWDUPONT INC.);	)	
DYNAX CORPORATION;	)	
E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND	)	
COMPANY;	)	
FIRE-DEX, LLC;	)	
FIRE SERVICE PLUS INC.;	)	
GLOBE MANUFACTURING COMPANY	)	
LLC;	)	
HONEYWELL SAFETY PRODUCTS	)	
USA, INC.;	)	
KIDDE-FENWAL, INC.;	)	
KIDDE P.L.C.;	)	
LION GROUP, INC.;	)	

**COMPLAINT  
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

MALLORY SAFETY AND SUPPLY LLC; )  
MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES CO., INC.; )  
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, )  
INC.; )  
NATION FORD CHEMICAL COMPANY; )  
NATIONAL FOAM, INC.; )  
THE CHEMOURS COMPANY; )  
PBI PERFORMANCE PRODUCTS, INC.; )  
PERIMETER SOLUTIONS LP.; )  
SOUTHERN MILLS, INC.; )  
STEDFAST USA, INC.; )  
TYCO FIRE PRODUCTS LP, as )  
successor-in-interest to The Ansul )  
Company; )  
UNITED TECHNOLOGIES )  
CORPORATION; )  
UTC FIRE & SECURITY AMERICAS )  
CORPORATION, INC. (f/k/a )  
GE Interlogix Inc.); )  
W.L. GORE & ASSOCIATES INC.; )

Defendants.

### **COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW, Jonathan Wells, by and through undersigned counsel, alleging upon information and belief as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff brings this action for damages stemming from personal injury resulting from exposure to aqueous film-forming foams (“AFFF”) and firefighter turnout gear (“TOG”) containing the toxic chemicals collectively known as per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”). PFAS includes, but is not limited to, perfluorooctanoic acid (“PFOA”) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (“PFOS”) and related chemicals including those that degrade to PFOA and/or PFOS.

2. AFFF is a specialized substance designed to extinguish petroleum-based fires. It has been used for decades by military and civilian firefighters to extinguish fires in training and in response to Class B fires.
3. TOG is personal protective equipment designed for heat and moisture resistance in order to protect firefighters in hazardous situations. Most turnout gear is made up of a thermal liner, moisture barrier, and an outer layer. The inner layers contain PFAS, and the outer layer is often treated with additional PFAS.
4. Defendants collectively designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold, and/or otherwise released into the stream of commerce AFFF and or TOG with knowledge that it contained highly toxic and bio persistent PFAS, which would expose end users of the product to the risks associated with PFAS. Further, defendants designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF or TOG which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
5. PFAS binds to proteins in the blood of humans exposed to it where it remains and persists over extended periods of time. Due to their unique chemical structure, PFAS accumulates in the blood and body of exposed individuals.
6. PFAS are highly toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. Defendants knew, or should have known, that PFAS remains in the human body while contemporaneously presenting significant health risks to humans.
7. Defendants' PFAS-containing AFFF or TOG products were used by Plaintiff in their intended manner, without significant change in the products' condition. Plaintiff was

unaware of the dangerous properties of the Defendants' AFFF or TOG products and relied on the Defendants' instructions as to the proper handling of the products. Plaintiff's consumption, inhalation and/or dermal absorption of PFAS from Defendant's AFFF or TOG products caused Plaintiff to develop the serious medical conditions and complications alleged herein.

8. Through this action, Plaintiff seeks to recover compensatory and punitive damages arising out of the permanent and significant damages sustained as a direct result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF or TOG products at several Fire Departments and or Military bases during Plaintiff's training and firefighting activities. Plaintiff further seeks injunctive, equitable, and declaratory relief arising from the same.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1) because the Plaintiff and Defendants are citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000,00, excluding interests and costs.
10. Venue is proper in this honorable Judicial District pursuant to this Court's Case Management Order ("CMO") No. 3. Plaintiff states that but for the order permitting direct filing in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Plaintiff would have filed this Complaint in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Moreover, in accordance with CMO No. 3, Plaintiff designates the United States District Court for the Southern District of California as Plaintiff's home venue. Venue is originally proper in the Southern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because it is the judicial district in which Plaintiff is a resident and or citizen, a

substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred, and Defendants conduct business within such district.

### **PARTIES**

11. Jonathan Wells is a resident and citizen of San Diego, California. Plaintiff was regularly exposed to AFFF and TOG in training and to extinguish fires during their military/civilian firefighting career. Plaintiff was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer as a direct result of exposure to Defendants' products.
12. Defendants are designers, marketers, developers, manufacturers, distributors, releasers, instructors, promoters, and sellers of PFAS-containing AFFF products or underlying PFAS containing chemicals used in AFFF production. The following Defendants, at all times relevant to this lawsuit, manufactured, designed, marketed, distributed, released, instructed, promoted and/or otherwise sold (directly or indirectly) PFAS-containing AFFF products to various locations for use in fighting Class B fires such that each Defendant knew or should have known their products would be delivered to areas for active use by Plaintiff during the course of Plaintiff's training and or firefighting activities.
13. Defendant, 3M Company, f/k/a Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, ("3M"), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. 3M has its principal place of business at 3M Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55133.
14. 3M designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials,

promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

15. Defendant AGC Chemicals Americas, Inc. (“AGC”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. AGC has its principal place of business at 55 E. Uwchlan Ave., Suite 201, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341.
16. AGC designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
17. Defendant Amerex Corporation (“Amerex”) is an Alabama corporation and does business throughout the United States. Amerex has its principal place of business at 7595 Gadsden Highway, Trussville, Alabama 35173.
18. Amerex designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

19. Defendant Archroma U.S. Inc. (“Archroma”) is a North Carolina company and does business throughout the United States. Archroma has its principal place of business at 5435 77 Center Drive, #10 Charlotte, North Carolina 28217. Upon information and belief, Archroma was formed in 2013 as part of the acquisition of Clariant Corporation’s Textile Chemicals, Paper Specialties and Emulsions business by SK Capital Partners.
20. Archroma designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
21. Defendant Arkema, Inc. (“Arkema”) is a Pennsylvania corporation and does business throughout the United States. Arkema has its principal place of business at 900 1st Avenue, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. Upon information and belief, assets of Arkema’s fluorochemical business were purchased by Defendant Dupont in 2002.
22. Arkema designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

23. Defendant BASF Corporation (“BASF”) is a Delaware Corporation and does business throughout the United States. BASF has its principal place of business at 100 Park Ave, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932.
24. BASF designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
25. Defendant Buckeye Fire Equipment Company (“Buckeye”) is an Ohio corporation and does business throughout the United States. Buckeye has its principal place of business at 110 Kings Road, Mountain, North Carolina 28086.
26. Buckeye designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
27. Defendant Carrier Fire & Security Corporation (“Carrier Fire”) is a Delaware Corporation and does business throughout the United States. Carrier Fire has its principal place of business at 13995 Pasteur Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418.

28. Carrier Fire designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
29. Defendant Carrier Global Corporation (“Carrier”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Carrier has its principal place of business at 13995 Pasteur Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418. Upon information and belief, Carrier was formed in 2020 and is the parent company of Kidde-Fenwal, Inc., a manufacturer of AFFF.
30. Carrier designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
31. Defendant ChemDesign Products, Inc. (“ChemDesign”) is a Texas corporation and does business throughout the United States. ChemDesign has its principal place of business at 2 Stanton Street, Marinette, Wisconsin 54143.

32. ChemDesign designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
33. Defendant Chemguard, Inc. (“Chemguard”) is a Wisconsin corporation and does business throughout the United States. Chemguard has its principal place of business at One Stanton Street, Marinette, Wisconsin 54143.
34. Chemguard designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
35. Defendant Chemicals, Inc. (“Chemicals”) is a Texas corporation and does business throughout the United States. Chemicals has its principal place of business at 12321 Hatcherville Road, Baytown, Texas 77521.
36. Chemicals designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises

which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

37. Defendant Chemours Company FC., LLC (“Chemours FC”), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Chemours has its principal place of business at 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19899. Chemours FC is a subsidiary of The Chemours Company.
38. Chemours FC designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
39. Defendant Chubb Fire, Ltd. (“Chubb”) is a foreign private limited company, with an office located at Littleton Road, Ashford, Middlesex, United Kingdom TW15 1TZ. Upon information and belief, Chubb is registered in the United Kingdom with a registered number of 134210. Upon information and belief, Chubb is or has been composed of different subsidiaries and or/divisions, including but not limited to, Chubb Fire & Security Ltd., Chubb Security, PLC, Red Hawk Fire & Security, LLC, and/or Chubb National Foam, Inc.
40. Chubb designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and or otherwise handled and/or use AFFF

containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Defendant further designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF.

41. Defendant Clariant Corporation (“Clariant”) is a New York corporation and does business throughout the United States. Clariant has its principal place of business at 4000 Monroe Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28205.
42. Clariant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
43. Defendant Corteva, Inc. (“Corteva”) is a Delaware Corporation that conducts business throughout the United States. Its principal place of business is Chestnut Run Plaza 735, Wilmington, Delaware 19805. Corteva is the successor-in-interest to Dupont Chemical Solutions Enterprise.
44. Corteva designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced

instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

45. Defendant Daikin America, Inc. (“Daikin”) is a foreign corporation organized under the laws of Delaware that conducts business throughout the United States. Its principal place of business is 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.
46. Daikin designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
47. Defendant Deepwater Chemicals, Inc. (“Deepwater”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Deepwater’s principal place of business is at 196122 E County Road 735, Woodward, Oklahoma 73801.
48. Deepwater designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

49. Defendant Du Pont de Nemours Inc. (f/k/a DowDuPont, Inc.) (“DowDuPont”), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. DowDuPont, has its principal place of business at 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19899 and 2211 H.H. Dow Way, Midland, Michigan 48674. DowDupont was created in 2015 to transfer Chemours and DuPont liabilities for manufacturing and distributing fluorosurfactants to AFFF manufacturers.
50. DowDuPont designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
51. Defendant Dynax Corporation (“Dynax”) is a New York corporation that conducts business throughout the United States. Its principal place of business is 103 Fairview Park Drive, Elmsford, New York, 10523-1544.
52. Dynax designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

53. Defendant E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (“DuPont”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. DuPont has its principal place of business at 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 1989.
54. Dupont designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
55. Defendant Fire Service Plus, Inc. (“Fire Service”) is a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Georgia that conducts business throughout the United States. Its principal place of business is 473 Dividend Drive, Peachtree City, Georgia 30269.
56. Fire Service designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
57. Defendant Kidde-Fenwal, Inc. (“Kidde-Fenwal”) is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware and does business throughout the United States. Kidde-Fenwal has its principal place of business at One Financial Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06101.

Kidde-Fenwal is the successor-in-interest to Kidde Fire Fighting, Inc. (f/k/a Chubb National Foam, Inc. f/k/a National Foam System, Inc.) (collectively, “Kidde/Kidde Fire”).

58. Kidde-Fenwal designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
59. Defendant Kidde P.L.C., Inc. (“Kidde P.L.C.”) is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and does business throughout the United States. Kidde P.L.C. has its principal place of business at One Carrier Place, Farmington, Connecticut 06034. Upon information and belief, Kidde PLC was formerly known as Williams Holdings, Inc. and/or Williams US, Inc.
60. Kidde P.L.C. designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
61. Defendant Nation Ford Chemical Company (“Nation Ford”) is a South Carolina company and does business throughout the United States. Nation Ford has its principal place of business at 2300 Banks Street, Fort Mill, South Carolina 29715.

62. Nation Ford designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
63. Defendant National Foam, Inc. (“National Foam”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. National Foam has its principal place of business at 141 Junny Road, Angier, North Carolina, 27501.
64. National Foam designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
65. Defendant The Chemours Company (“Chemours”), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Chemours has its principal place of business 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19898. Upon information and belief, Chemours was spun off from DuPont in 2015 to assume PFAS related liabilities.
66. Chemours designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed,

marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

67. Defendant Tyco Fire Products, LP, as successor-in-interest to The Ansul Company (“Tyco”), is a Delaware limited partnership and does business throughout the United States. Tyco has its principal place of business at 1400 Pennbrook Parkway, Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19466. Tyco manufactured and currently manufactures the Ansul brand of products, including Ansul brand AFFF containing PFAS.
68. Tyco is the successor in interest to the corporation formerly known as The Ansul Company (“Ansul”). At all times relevant, Tyco/Ansul designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
69. Defendant United Technologies Corporation (“United Technologies”) is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and does business throughout the United States. United Technologies has its principal place of business at 8 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, Connecticut 06032.
70. United Technologies designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used

AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.

71. Defendant UTC Fire & Security Americas Corporation, Inc. (f/k/a GE Interlogix, Inc.) (“UTC”) is a North Carolina corporation and does business throughout the United States. UTC has its principal place of business at 3211 Progress Drive, Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092. Upon information and belief, Kidde-Fenwal, Inc. is part of the UTC Climate Control & Security unit of United Technologies Corporation.
72. UTC designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
73. Defendant Allstar Fire Equipment is a California corporation (“Allstar”) and does business throughout the United States. Allstar has its principal place of business at 12328 Lower Azusa Road, Arcadia, California 91006.
74. Allstar developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
75. Defendant Fire-Dex, LLC (“Fire-Dex”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Fire-Dex has its principal place of business at 780 South Progress Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256.

76. Fire-Dex developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
77. Defendant Globe Manufacturing Company LLC (“Globe”) is a New Hampshire corporation and does business throughout the United States. Globe has its principal place of business at 37 Loudon Road, Pittsfield, New Hampshire 03263.
78. Globe developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
79. Defendant Honeywell Safety Products USA, Inc. (“Honeywell”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Honeywell has its principal place of business at 300 South Tryon Street Suite 500, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.
80. Honeywell developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
81. Defendant Lion Group, Inc. (“Lion”) is an Ohio corporation and does business throughout the United States. Lion has its principal place of business at 7200 Poe Avenue, Suite 400 Dayton, Ohio, 45414.
82. Lion developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
83. Defendant Mallory Safety and Supply LLC. (“Mallory”) is a Washington corporation and does business throughout the United States. Mallory has its principal place of business at 1040 Industrial Way, Longview, Washington, 98632.

84. Mallory developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
85. Defendant Mine Safety Appliances Co., Inc. (“MSA”) is a Pennsylvania corporation and does business throughout the United States. MSA has its principal place of business at 1000 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, 16066.
86. MSA developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
87. Defendant Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. (“MES”) is a Nevada corporation and does business throughout the United States. MES has its principal place of business at 12 Turnberry Lane, Sandy Hook, Connecticut 06482.
88. MES developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
89. Defendant PBI Performance Products, Inc. (“PBI”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. PBI has its principal place of business at 9800-D Southern Pine Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina 28273.
90. PBI developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
91. Defendant Southern Mills, Inc. (“Southern Mills”) is a Georgia corporation and does business throughout the United States. Southern Mills has its principal place of business at 6501 Mall Boulevard, Union City, Georgia 30291.
92. Southern Mills developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

93. Defendant Stedfast USA, Inc. (“Stedfast”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Stedfast has its principal place of business at 800 Mountain View Drive, Piney Flats, Tennessee 37686.
94. Stedfast developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
95. Defendant W.L. Gore & Associates Inc. (“Gore”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Gore has its principal place of business at 1901 Barksdale Road, Newark, Delaware 19711.
96. Gore developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.
97. Defendant Perimeter Solutions LP (“Perimeter”) is a Missouri Limited Partnership and does business throughout the United States. Perimeter has its principal place of business at 120 South Central Avenue, Clayton, Missouri 63105.
98. Perimeter designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint. Further, defendant designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting.
99. When reference is made in this Complaint to any act or omission of any of the Defendants, it shall be deemed that the officers, directors, agents, employees, or representatives of the Defendants committed or authorized such act or omission, or failed to adequately supervise

or properly control or direct their employees while engaged in the management, direction, operation, or control of the affairs of Defendants, and did so while acting within the scope of their duties, employment or agency.

100. The term “AFFF Defendant” or “AFFF Defendants” refers to all Defendants named herein jointly and severally, unless otherwise stated, who designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint.
101. The term “TOG Defendant” or “TOG Defendants” refers to all Defendants names herein who developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

102. Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (“AFFF”) is a combination of chemicals used to extinguish hydrocarbon fuel-based fires.
103. AFFF-containing fluorinated surfactants have better firefighting capabilities when compared to water due to their surfactant-tension lowering properties which allow the compound(s) to extinguish fire by smothering, ultimately starving it of oxygen.
104. AFFF is a Class-B firefighting foam. It is mixed with water and used to extinguish fires that are difficult to fight, particularly those that involve petroleum or other flammable liquids.
105. AFFF Defendants designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold, and/or otherwise handled AFFF containing toxic PFAS or underlying PFAS containing chemicals used in AFFF

production that were used by entities around the country, including military, county, and municipal firefighting departments.

106. AFFF Defendants have each designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users on, produced instructional materials for, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS, in such a way as to cause the contamination of Plaintiff's blood and/or body with PFAS, resulting in bio persistence and bioaccumulation of PFAS in the blood and/or body of Plaintiff.
107. AFFF was introduced commercially in the mid-1960s and rapidly became the primary firefighting foam in the United States and in other parts of the world. It contains PFAS, which are highly fluorinated synthetic chemical compounds whose family include PFOS and PFOA.
108. PFAS are a family of chemical compounds containing fluorine and carbon atoms.
109. PFAS have been used for decades in the manufacture of AFFF. The PFAS family of chemicals are entirely human-made and do not naturally occur or otherwise exist.
110. Prior to commercial development and large-scale manufacture and use of AFFF containing PFAS, no such PFAS had been found or detected in human blood.

#### **AFFF / PFAS Hazardous Effects on Humans**

111. AFFF and its components are associated with a wide variety of adverse health effects in humans.
112. Exposure to Defendants' AFFF products has been linked to serious medical conditions including, but not limited to, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, liver cancer, testicular tumors, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, bladder cancer, thyroid disease and infertility.

113. By at least the end of the 1960s, animal toxicity testing performed by some Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS indicated that exposure to such materials, including at least PFOA, resulted in various adverse health effects among multiple species of laboratory animals, including toxic effects to the liver, testes, adrenals, and other organs and bodily systems.
114. By at least the end of the 1960s, additional research and testing performed by some Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS indicated that such materials, including at least PFOA, because of their unique chemical structure, were resistant to environmental degradation and would persist in the environment essentially unaltered if allowed to enter into the environment.
115. By at least the end of the 1970s, additional research and testing performed by some Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS indicated that one or more such materials, including at least PFOA and PFOS, because of their unique chemical structure, would bind to proteins in the blood of animals and humans exposed to such materials and such materials would remain and persist over long periods of time, accumulating in the blood/body of the exposed individuals with each additional exposure.
116. By at least the end of the 1980s, additional research and testing performed by some Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS indicated that at least one such PFAS, PFOA, had caused Leydig cell (testicular) tumors in a chronic cancer study in rats, resulting in at least one such Defendant, DuPont, classifying such PFAS internally as a confirmed animal carcinogen and possible human carcinogen.
117. It was understood by AFFF Defendants by at least the end of the 1980s that a chemical that caused cancer in animal studies must be presumed to present a cancer risk to humans,

unless the precise mechanism of action by which the tumors were caused was known and would not occur in humans.

118. By at least the end of the 1980s, scientists had not determined the precise mechanism of action by which any PFAS caused tumors. Therefore, scientific principles of carcinogenesis classification mandated AFFF Defendants presume any such PFAS material that caused tumors in animal studies could present a potential cancer risk to exposed humans.
119. By at least the end of the 1980s, additional research and testing performed by some Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, including at least DuPont, indicated that elevated incidence of certain cancers and other adverse health effects, including elevated liver enzymes and birth defects, had been observed among workers exposed to such materials, including at least PFOA, but such data was not published, provided to governmental entities as required by law, or otherwise publicly disclosed at the time.
120. By at least the end of the 1980s, some Defendants, including at least 3M and DuPont, understood that, not only did PFAS, including at least PFOA and PFOS, enter into, persist, and accumulate in the human blood and in the human body, but that once in the human body and blood, particularly the longer-chain PFAS, such as PFOS and PFOA, had a long half-life. Meaning, it would take a very long time before even half of the material would start to be eliminated, which allowed increasing levels of the chemicals to build up and accumulate in the blood and/or body of exposed individuals over time, particularly if any level of exposure continued.
121. By at least the end of the 1990s, additional research and testing performed by some Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, including at least 3M and DuPont, indicated

that at least one such PFAS, PFOA, had caused a triad of tumors (Leydig cell (testicular), liver, and pancreatic) in a second chronic cancer study in rats.

122. By at least the end of the 1990s, the precise mechanism(s) of action by which any PFAS caused each of the tumors found in animal studies had still not been identified, mandating that AFFF Defendants continue to presume that any such PFAS that caused such tumors in animal studies could present a potential cancer risk to exposed humans.
123. By at least 2010, additional research and testing performed by some Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, including at least 3M and DuPont, revealed multiple potential adverse health impacts among workers exposed to such PFAS, including at least PFOA, such as increased cancer incidence, hormone changes, lipid changes, and thyroid and liver impacts.
124. When the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”) and other state and local public health agencies and officials first began learning of PFAS exposure in the United States and potential associated adverse health effects, AFFF Defendants States and potential associated adverse health effects, AFFF Defendants repeatedly assured and represented to such entities and the public that such exposure presented no risk of harm and were of no significance.
125. After the USEPA and other entities began asking Defendants to stop manufacturing and/or using certain PFAS, AFFF Defendants began manufacturing and/or using and/or began making and/or using more of certain other and/or “new” PFAS, including PFAS materials with six or fewer carbons, such as GenX (collectively “Short-Chain PFAS”).

126. AFFF Defendants manufacturing and/or using Short-Chain PFAS, including at least DuPont and 3M, are aware that one or more such Short-Chain PFAS materials also have been found in human blood.
127. By at least the mid-2010s, AFFF Defendants, including at least DuPont and Chemours, were aware that at least one Short-Chain PFAS had been found to cause the same triad of tumors (Leydig (testicular), liver, and pancreatic) in a chronic rat cancer study as had been found in a chronic rat cancer study with a non-Short-Chain PFAS.
128. Research and testing performed by and/or on behalf of AFFF Defendants making and/or using Short-Chain PFAS indicates that such Short-Chain PFAS materials present the same, similar, and/or additional risks to human health as had been found in research on other PFAS materials, including cancer risk.
129. Nevertheless, AFFF Defendants repeatedly assured and represented to governmental entities and the public (and continue to do so) that the presence of PFAS, including Short-Chain PFAS, in human blood at the levels found within the United States present no risk of harm and is of no legal, toxicological, or medical significance.
130. At all relevant times, AFFF Defendants, individually and/or collectively, possessed the resources and ability but have intentionally, purposefully, recklessly, and/or negligently chosen not to fund or sponsor any study, investigation, testing, and/or other research of the nature that AFFF Defendants claim is necessary to confirm and/or prove that the presence of any one and/or combination of PFAS in human blood causes any disease and/or adverse health impact of any kind in humans, presents any risk of harm to humans, and/or is of any legal, toxicological, or medical significance to humans, according to standards AFFF Defendants deem acceptable.

131. Even after an independent science panel, known as the “C8 Science Panel,” publicly announced in the 2010s that human exposure to 0.05 parts per billion or more of one PFAS, namely PFOA, had “probable links” with certain human diseases, including kidney cancer, testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, preeclampsia, and medically-diagnosed high cholesterol, AFFF Defendant repeatedly assured and represented to governmental entities, their customers, and the public (and continue to do so) that the presence of PFAS in human blood at the levels found within the United States presents no risk of harm and is of no legal, toxicological, or medical significance of any kind, and have represented to and assured such governmental entities, their customers, and the public (and continue to do so) that the work of the independent C8 Science Panel was inadequate.
132. At all relevant times, AFFF Defendants shared and/or should have shared among themselves all relevant information relating to the presence, bio persistence, and bioaccumulation of PFAS in human blood and associated toxicological, epidemiological, and/or other adverse effects and/or risks.
133. As of the present date, blood serum testing and analysis by AFFF Defendants, independent scientific researchers, and/or government entities has confirmed that PFAS materials are clinically demonstrably present in approximately 99% of the current population of the United States.
134. There is not naturally occurring “background,” normal, and/or acceptable level or rate of any PFAS in human blood, as all PFAS detected and/or present in human blood is present and/or detectable in such blood as a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Defendants.

135. At all relevant times, Defendants, through their acts and/or omissions, controlled, minimized, trivialized, manipulated, and/or otherwise influenced the information that was published in peer-review journals, released by any governmental entity, and/or otherwise made available to the public relating to PFAS in human blood and any alleged adverse impacts and/or risks associated therein, effectively preventing Plaintiff from discovering the existence and extent of any injuries/harm as alleged herein.
136. At all relevant times, Defendants, through their acts and/or omissions, took steps to attack, challenge, discredit, and/or otherwise undermine any scientific studies, findings, statements, and/or other information that proposed, alleged, suggested, or even implied any potential adverse health effects or risks and/or any other fact of any legal, toxicological, or medical significance associated with the presence of PFAS in human blood.
137. At all relevant times, Defendants, through their acts and/or omissions, concealed and/or withheld information from their customers, governmental entities, and the public that would have properly and fully alerted Plaintiff to the legal, toxicological, medical, or other significance and/or risk from having any PFAS material in Plaintiff's blood.
138. At all relevant times, Defendants encouraged the continued and even further increased use of PFAS by their customers and others, including but not limited to the manufacture, use, and release, of AFFF containing PFAS and/or emergency responder protection gear or equipment coated with materials made with or containing PFAS, and tried to encourage and foster the increased and further use of PFAS in connection with as many products/uses/and applications as possible, despite knowledge of the toxicity, persistence, and bioaccumulation concerns associated with such activities.

139. To this day, Defendants deny that the presence of any PFAS in human blood, at any level, is an injury or presents any harm or risk of harm of any kind, or is otherwise of any legal, toxicological, or medical significance.
140. To this day, Defendants deny that any scientific study, research, testing, or other work of any kind has been performed that is sufficient to suggest to the public that the presence of any PFAS material in human blood, at any level, is of any legal, toxicological, medical, or other significance.
141. Defendants, to this day, affirmatively assert and represent to governmental entities, their customers, and the public that there is no evidence that any of the PFAS found in human blood across the United States causes any health impacts or is sufficient to generate an increased risk of future disease sufficient to warrant diagnostic medical testing, often referring to existing studies or data as including too few participants or too few cases or incidents of disease to draw any scientifically credible or statistically significant conclusions.
142. Defendants were and/or should have been aware, knew and/or should have known, and/or foresaw or should have foreseen that their design, marketing, development, manufacture, distribution, release, training and response of users, production of instructional materials, sale and/or other handling and/or use of AFFF containing PFAS would result in the contamination of the blood and/or body of Plaintiff with PFAS, and the bio persistence and bioaccumulation of PFAS in their blood and/or body.
143. Defendants were and /or should have been aware, or knew and/or should have known, and/or foresaw or should have foreseen that allowing PFAS to contaminate the blood

and/or body of Plaintiff would cause injury, irreparable harm, and/or unacceptable risk of injury and/or irreparable harm to Plaintiff.

144. Defendants did not seek or obtain permission nor consent from Plaintiff before engaging in acts and/or omissions that caused, allowed, and/or otherwise resulted in Plaintiff's exposure to AFFF and the contamination of Plaintiff's blood and/or body with PFAS materials, and resulting bio persistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or body.

#### **Defendants' History of Manufacturing and Selling AFFF**

145. 3M began producing PFOS and PFOA by electrochemical fluorination in the 1940s. In the 1960s, 3M used its fluorination process to develop AFFF.
146. 3M manufactured, marketed, and sold AFFF from the 1960s to the early 2000s.
147. National Foam and Tyco/Ansul began to manufacture, market, and sell AFFF in the 1970s.
148. Buckeye began to manufacture, market, and sell AFFF in the 2000s.
149. In 2000, 3M announced it was phasing out its manufacture of PFOS, PFOA, and related products, including AFFF. 3M, in its press release announcing the phase out, stated "our products are safe," and that 3M's decision was "based on [its] principles of responsible environment management." 3M further stated that "the presence of these materials at [] very low levels does not pose a human health or environmental risk." In communications with the EPA at that time, 3M also stated that it had "concluded that...other business opportunities were more deserving of the company's energies and attention..."
150. Following 3M's exit from the AFFF market, the remaining AFFF Defendants continued to manufacture and sell AFFF that contained PFAS and/or its precursors.

151. AFFF Defendants knew their customers warehoused large stockpiles of AFFF. In fact, AFFF Defendants marketed their AFFF products by touting its shelf-life. Even after AFFF Defendants fully understood the toxicity of PFAS, and their impacts to the health of humans following exposure, AFFF Defendants concealed the true nature of PFAS. While AFFF Defendants phased out production or transitioned to other formulas, they did not instruct their customers that they should not use AFFF that contained PFAS and/or their precursors. Further, AFFF Defendants did not act to get their harmful products off the market.
152. AFFF Defendants did not warn public entities, firefighter trainees who they knew would foreseeably come into contact with their AFFF products, or firefighters employed by either civilian and/or military employers that use and/or exposure to defendants AFFF products containing PFAS and/or its precursors would pose a danger to human health.
153. The Plaintiff directly used, was exposed to, and/or was given AFFF to help fight fires on a regular basis.
154. The Plaintiff was never informed that this product was inherently dangerous. Nor was the Plaintiff warned about the known health risks associated with this product.
155. The Plaintiff never received or was told to use any protective gear to guard against the known dangerous propensities of this product.
156. AFFF Defendants have known of the health hazards associated with AFFF and/or its compounds for decades and that their intended and/or common use would harm human health. Information regarding AFFF and its compounds were readily accessible to each of the above-referenced AFFF Defendants for decades because each is an expert in the field of AFFF manufacturing and/or the materials needed to manufacture AFFF, and each has

detailed information and understanding about the chemical compounds that form AFFF products.

157. The AFFF Defendants' manufacture, distribution and/or sale of AFFF resulted in the Plaintiff and other individuals who came in contact with the chemical to develop cancer.
158. The AFFF Defendants through their manufacturing, distribution and/or sale of AFFF, and through their involvement and/or participation in the creation of training and instructional materials and activities, knew, foresaw, and/or should have known and/or foreseen that the Plaintiff and those similarly situated would be harmed.
159. The AFFF Defendants' products were unreasonably dangerous and the Defendants failed to warn of the known danger.

#### **PFAS-Containing Turnout Gear**

160. During firefighting training and when responding to fires and performing fire extinguishment, firefighters wear turnouts that are intended to provide a degree of thermal, chemical, and biological protection for a firefighter. Turnout gear components include individual components such as a helmet, hood, jacket, pants and suspenders, boots, and gloves. Each component of the jacket and pants are made of an outer layer, as well as several inner layers that include a moisture barrier and thermal liner which are meant to protect the firefighter from ambient heat.
161. PFAS chemicals are used in turnout gear to impart heat, water, and stain resistance to the outer shell and moisture barrier of turnout gear.
162. A June 2020 study of turnout gear by researchers at the University of Notre Dame analyzed 30 new and used turnout jackets and pants originally marketed, distributed, and sold in 2008, 2014, and 2017, by six turnout gear makers, including Defendants MSA, Globe, Lion

and Honeywell and found high levels of PFAS in turnout gear worn, used, or handled by firefighters, including the Plaintiff Firefighter.

163. When exposed to heat, PFAS chemicals in the turnouts off-gas, break down, and degrade into highly mobile and toxic particles and dust, exposing firefighters to PFAS chemicals, particles and dust, including through skin contact/absorption, ingestion (e.g., hand-to-mouth contact) and/or inhalation. Further, firefighter exposure to these highly mobile and toxic materials occurs through normal workplace activities, because particles or dust from the turnouts spreads to fire vehicles and fire stations, as well as firefighters' personal vehicles and homes.
164. Such workplace exposure to PFAS or PFAS-containing materials has been found to be toxic to humans. As far back as a July 31, 1980, in an internal memo, DuPont officials described measures that were needed to prevent workplace exposure to PFOA, which they knew could permeate all protective materials, and noted that PFOA's toxicity varied depending on the exposure pathway, acknowledging that ingestion was "slightly toxic," dermal contact was "slightly to moderately toxic" and inhalation was "highly toxic." The memo concluded "continued exposure is not tolerable."
165. As alleged herein, the Firefighter Plaintiff wore turnouts in the ordinary course of performing their duty, as the turnouts were intended to be used and in a foreseeable manner, which exposed them to significant levels of PFAS.
166. The Firefighter Plaintiff did not know, and in the exercise of reasonable diligence could not have known, that the turnouts worn or used in the course of performing their duty contained PFAS or PFAS-containing materials. Similarly, Plaintiff did not and could not have known that one routinely suffered exposure to PFAS or PFAS-containing materials

in the turnouts worn or used in performing their duties. The turnout gear worn or used by the Firefighter Plaintiff did not and does not contain labeling information saying that the gear contains PFAS, and similarly did not and does not warn the Firefighter Plaintiff of the health risks associated with exposure to PFAS.

167. Like fire departments across the country, Plaintiff only had one set of turnouts for years, and would wash such turnouts at home and/or in station machines along with their daily station wear uniforms.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **COUNT I – NEGLIGENCE**

168. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.
169. Defendants had a duty to individuals, including the Plaintiff, to exercise reasonable ordinary and appropriate care in the manufacturing, design, labeling, packaging, testing, instruction, warning, selling, marketing, distribution, and training related to the AFFF or TOG product.
170. Defendants breached their duty of care and were negligent, grossly negligent, reckless, and willful as described herein in the design, manufacture, labeling, warning, instruction, training, selling, marketing, and distribution of the AFFF or TOG products or underlying PFAS containing chemicals used in AFFF or TOG production in one or more of the following respects:
- a. Failing to design the products as to avoid an unreasonable risk of harm to individuals, including the Plaintiff;
  - b. Failing to use reasonable care in the testing of the products as to avoid an unreasonable risk of harm to individuals, including the Plaintiff;
  - c. Failing to use appropriate care in inspecting the products as to avoid an unreasonable risk of harm to individuals, including the Plaintiff;

- d. Failing to use appropriate care in instructing and/or warning the public as set forth herein of risks associated with the products, so as to avoid unreasonable risk of harm to individuals, including the Plaintiff;
- e. Failing to use reasonable care in marketing, promoting, and advertising the products as to avoid unreasonable risk of harm to individuals, including the Plaintiff;
- f. Otherwise negligently or carelessly designing, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, warning; and
- g. In selling and or distributing a product that was inherently dangerous to the public;

171. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, the Plaintiff has been injured, sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, economic loss and damages including, but not limited to medical expenses, lost income, and/or other damages.
172. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgment against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

#### **COUNT II – BATTERY**

173. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.
174. At all relevant times, Defendants possessed knowledge that the AFFF or TOG containing PFAS which they designed, engineered, manufactured, fabricated, sold, handled, released, trained users on, produced instructional materials for, used, and/or distributed were bio-persistent, bio- accumulative, toxic, potentially carcinogenic, and/or otherwise harmful/injurious and that their continued manufacture, use, sale, handling, release, and distribution would result in Plaintiff having PFAS in Plaintiff's blood, and the bio persistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in Plaintiff's blood.

175. However, despite possessing such knowledge, Defendants knowingly, purposefully, and/or intentionally continued to engage in such acts and/or omissions, including but not limited to all such acts and/or omissions described in this Complaint, that continued to result in Plaintiff accumulating PFAS in Plaintiff's blood and/or body, and such PFAS persisting and accumulating in Plaintiff's blood and/or body.
176. Defendants did not seek or obtain permission or consent from Plaintiff to put or allow PFAS materials into Plaintiff's blood and/or body, or to persist in and/or accumulate in Plaintiff's blood and/or body.
177. Entry into, persistence in, and accumulation of such PFAS in Plaintiff's body and/or blood without permission or consent is an unlawful and harmful and/or offensive physical invasion and/or contact with Plaintiff's person and unreasonably interferes with Plaintiff's rightful use and possession of Plaintiff's blood and/or body.
178. At all relevant times, the PFAS present in the blood of Plaintiff originated from Defendants' acts and/or omissions.
179. Defendants continue to knowingly, intentionally, and/or purposefully engage in acts and/or omissions that result in the unlawful and unconsented-to physical invasion and/or contact with Plaintiff that has resulted in persisting and accumulating levels of PFAS in Plaintiff's blood.
180. Plaintiff and any reasonable person would find the contact at issue harmful and/or offensive.
181. Defendants acted intentionally with the knowledge and/or belief that the contact, presence and/or invasion of PFAS with, onto and/or into Plaintiff's blood, including its persistence

and accumulation in such serum, was substantially certain to result from those very acts and/or omissions.

182. Defendants' intentional acts and/or omissions resulted directly and/or indirectly in harmful contact with Plaintiff's blood and/or body.
183. The continued presence, persistence, and accumulation of PFAS in the blood and/or body of Plaintiff is offensive, unreasonable, and/or harmful, and thereby constitutes a battery.
184. The presence of PFAS in the blood and/or body of Plaintiff altered the structure and/or function of such blood and/or body parts and resulted in cancer.
185. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Plaintiff suffered physical injury for which Defendants are therefore liable.
186. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgments against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

### **COUNT III – INADEQUATE WARNING**

187. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.
188. Defendants knew or should have known:
  - a. exposure to AFFF or TOG containing PFAS was hazardous to human health;
  - b. the manner in which Defendants' were designing, marketing, developing, manufacturing, distributing, releasing, training, instructing, promoting, and selling AFFF or TOG containing PFAS was hazardous to human health; and
  - c. the manner in which Defendants were designing, marketing, developing, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, releasing, training, instructing, promotion and selling AFFF or TOG containing PFAS would result in the contamination of Plaintiff's blood and/or body as a result of exposure.

189. Defendants had a duty to warn of the hazards associated with AFFF or TOG containing PFAS entering the blood and/or body of Plaintiff because they knew of the dangerous, hazardous, and toxic properties of AFFF or TOG containing PFAS. Defendants failed to provide sufficient warning to purchasers that the use of their AFFF or TOG products would cause PFAS to be released and cause the exposure and bioaccumulation of these toxic chemicals in the blood and/or body of Plaintiff.
190. Adequate instructions and warnings on the AFFF or TOG containing PFAS could have reduced or avoided these foreseeable risks of harm and injury to Plaintiff. If Defendants provided adequate warnings:
- a. Plaintiff could have and would have taken measures to avoid or lessen exposure; and
  - b. end users and governments could have taken steps to reduce or prevent the release of PFASs into the blood and/or body of Plaintiff. Defendants' failure to warn was a direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries from PFAS that came from the use, storage, and disposal of AFFF or TOG containing PFAS. Crucially, Defendants' failure to provide adequate and sufficient warnings for the AFFF or TOG containing PFAS they designed, marketed, manufactured, distributed, released, promoted, and sold renders the AFFF or TOG a defective product.
191. Defendants were negligent in their failure to provide Plaintiff with adequate warnings or instruction that the use of their AFFF or TOG products would cause PFAS to be released into the blood and/or body of Plaintiff. As a result of Defendants' conduct and the resulting contamination, Plaintiff suffered severe personal injuries by exposure to AFFF or TOG containing PFAS.
192. Defendants' negligent failure to warn directly and proximately caused the harm to and damages suffered by Plaintiff.

193. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgments against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

**COUNT IV – DESIGN DEFECT**

194. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.
195. Defendants knew or should have known: exposure to AFFF or TOG containing PFAS is hazardous to human health;
- a. the manner in which AFFF or TOG containing PFAS was designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold was hazardous to human health; and
  - b. the manner in which AFFF or TOG containing PFAS was designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and could and would release PFAS into Plaintiff and cause the exposure and bioaccumulation of these toxic and poisonous chemicals in the blood and/or body of Plaintiff.
196. Knowing of the dangerous and hazardous properties of the AFFF or TOG containing PFAS, Defendants could have designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold alternative designs or formulations of AFFF or TOG that did not contain hazardous and toxic PFAS. These alternative designs and formulations were already readily available, practical, and technologically feasible. The use of these alternative designs would have reduced or prevented reasonably foreseeable harm to Plaintiff caused by the Defendants' design, manufacture, marketing, distribution, and sale of AFFF or TOG containing hazardous and toxic PFAS.
197. The AFFF or TOG containing PFAS that was designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold by the Defendants was so hazardous, toxic, and dangerous to human

health that the act of designing, formulating, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, and selling this AFFF was unreasonably dangerous under the circumstances.

198. The AFFF or TOG designed, formulated, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold by Defendants was defectively designed and the foreseeable risk of harm could and would have been reduced or eliminated by the adoption of a reasonable alternative design that was not unreasonably dangerous. Defendants' defective design and formulation of AFFF or TOG containing PFAS was a direct and proximate cause of the contamination of the blood and/or body of Plaintiff and the persistence and accumulation of PFAS in Plaintiff's blood and/or body.
199. Defendants' defective design and formulation of AFFF or TOG containing PFAS caused the contamination described herein, resulting in personal injuries to Plaintiff. As a direct result of the harm and injury caused by Defendants' defective design and the contamination described herein, Plaintiff has been exposed to AFFF or TOG containing PFAS and other toxic substances and has developed cancer.
200. Defendants' negligent failure to design a reasonably safe product directly and proximately caused the harm to and damages suffered by Plaintiff.
201. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff pray judgments against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

#### **COUNT V – STRICT LIABILITY (STATUTORY)**

202. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

203. Plaintiff asserts any and all remedies available under statutory causes of action from Plaintiff's state for strict liability against each Defendant.
204. The Defendants were engaged in designing, manufacturing, marketing, selling, and distribution of AFFF or TOG.
205. The AFFF or TOG was in a defective condition and unreasonably dangerous to users and/or consumers when designed, manufactured, marketed, sold, and/or distributed to the public by the Defendants.
206. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants products with the aforementioned defects, the Plaintiff has been injured and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, economic loss and damages including, but not limited to medical expenses, lost income, and any other damages arising under law.
207. The Defendants are strictly liable in tort to the Plaintiff for their wrongful conduct.
208. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgment against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

#### **COUNT VI – STRICT LIABILITY (RESTATEMENT)**

209. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.
210. The Plaintiff brings strict product liability claims under the common law, Section 402A of the Restatement of Torts (Second), and/or Restatement of Torts (Third) against Defendants.
211. As designed, manufactured, marketed, tested, assembled, equipped, distributed and/or sold by the Defendants the AFFF or TOG products were in a defective and unreasonably

dangerous condition when put to reasonably anticipated use by foreseeable consumers and users, including the Plaintiff.

212. The Defendants had reasonable alternative designs available that would have made the AFFF or TOG product safer and would have most likely prevented the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff, in violation of state law and the Restatement of Torts.
213. The Defendants failed to properly and adequately warn and instruct the Plaintiff as to the proper safety handling and use of the Defendants product.
214. The Defendants failed to properly and adequately warn and instruct the Plaintiff regarding the inadequate research and testing of their products.
215. The Defendants' products are inherently dangerous and defective, unfit and unsafe for their Intended and reasonably foreseeable uses, and do not meet or perform as expected.
216. As a proximate result of the Defendants' design, manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of the products, the Plaintiff has been injured and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, and consortium, and economic damages.
217. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants are strictly liable for the injuries and damages suffered by the Plaintiff, caused by these defects in the AFFF or TOG product.
218. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgments against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

#### **COUNT VII – FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**

219. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

220. Throughout the relevant time period, Defendants knew that their products were defective and unreasonably unsafe for their intended purpose.
221. Defendants fraudulently concealed from and/or failed to disclose to or warn the Plaintiff, and the public that their products were defective, unsafe, and unfit for the purposes intended, and that they were not of merchantable quality.
222. Defendants were under a duty to the Plaintiff and the public to disclose and warn of the defective and harmful nature of the products because:
- a. Defendants were in a superior position to know the true quality, safety and efficacy of the Defendants' products;
  - b. Defendants knowingly made false claims about the safety and quality of the Defendants' products in documents and marketing materials; and
  - c. Defendants fraudulently and affirmatively concealed the defective nature of the Defendants' products from the Plaintiff.
222. The facts concealed and/or not disclosed by Defendants to the Plaintiff were material facts that a reasonable person would have considered to be important in deciding whether or not to purchase and/or use the Defendants' products.
223. Defendants intentionally concealed and/or failed to disclose the true defective nature of the products so that the Plaintiff would use the Defendants' products, the Plaintiff justifiably acted or relied upon, to Plaintiff's detriment, the concealed and/or non-disclosed facts as evidenced by Plaintiff's use of the Defendants' products.
224. Defendants, by concealment or other action, intentionally prevented the Plaintiff from acquiring material information regarding the lack of safety and effectiveness of the Defendants' products and are subject to the same liability to the Plaintiff for Plaintiff's pecuniary losses, as though Defendants had stated the non-existence of such material information regarding the Defendants' products' lack of safety and effectiveness and dangers and defects, and as though Defendants had affirmatively stated the non-existence

of such matters that the Plaintiff was thus prevented from discovering the truth. Defendants therefore have liability for fraudulent concealment under all applicable laws, including, inter alia, Restatement (Second) of Torts §550 (1977).

225. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff has been injured, and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, and economic damages.
226. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgments against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

**COUNT VIII – BREACH OF EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

227. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.
228. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants manufactured, marketed, labeled, and sold the AFFF or TOG products that have been previously alleged and described herein.
229. At the time the Defendants designed, developed, marketed, sold, labeled, and distributed the AFFF or TOG products, the Defendants knew of the use for which it was intended, and impliedly and/or expressly warranted that the product was merchantable, safe, and fit for its intended purpose.
230. The Defendants warranted that the product was merchantable and fit for the particular purpose for which it was intended and would be reasonably safe. The Defendants breached these warranties and such breach proximately resulted in the injuries and damages suffered by the Plaintiff.

231. The Plaintiff is within the class of foreseeable users of Defendants products and reasonably relied upon Defendants' judgment, and the implied and/or express warranties in using the products.
232. The Defendants breached their implied and/or express warranties and did not meet the expectations for the performance of the product when used for its intended purpose and was neither of merchantable quality, nor safe for its intended use in that the product has a propensity to cause serious injury, pain, and cancer.
233. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgments against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

**COUNT IX – WANTONNESS**

234. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.
235. Defendants and their employees, agents, officers, and representatives owed a duty of care to end users of their AFFF or TOG products, including Plaintiff.
236. Defendants breached the duty of care owed to the Plaintiff.
237. The actions of Defendants and their employees, agents, officers, and representatives were willful and wanton and exhibited a reckless disregard for the life, health, and safety of the end users of Defendants' AFFF or TOG products, including Plaintiff.
238. As a proximate and foreseeable consequent of the actions of Defendants, Plaintiff was exposed to unreasonably dangerous toxic PFAS containing AFFF or TOG, which caused Plaintiff injury.

239. WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays judgment against the Defendants for actual, compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages, together with the costs of this action, and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem fit, just, and proper.

### **TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

#### **Discovery Rule Tolling**

240. Plaintiff had no way of knowing about the risk of serious injury associated with the use of and exposure to PFAS until very recently.

241. Within the time period of any applicable statute of limitations, Plaintiff could not have discovered, through the exercise of reasonable diligence, that exposure to PFAS is harmful to human health.

242. Plaintiff did not discover and did not know of facts that would cause a reasonable person to suspect the risk associated with the use of and exposure to PFAS; nor would a reasonable and diligent investigation by Plaintiff have disclosed that PFAS could cause personal injury.

243. For the aforementioned reasons, all applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled by operation of the discovery rule with respect to Plaintiff's claims.

#### **Fraudulent Concealment Tolling**

244. All applicable statute of limitations have also been tolled by Defendants knowing and active fraudulent concealment and denial of the facts alleged herein throughout the time period relevant to this action.

245. Instead of disclosing critical safety information regarding AFFF or TOG, Defendants have consistently and falsely represented the safety of AFFF or TOG products.

246. This fraudulent concealment continues through present day.

247. Due to this fraudulent concealment, all applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled by operation of the discovery rule with respect to Plaintiff's claims.

### **Estoppel**

248. Defendants were under a continuous duty to consumer, end users, and other persons coming into contact with their products, including Plaintiff, to accurately provide safety information concerning its products and the risk associated with the use of and exposure to AFFF or TOG.

249. Instead, Defendants knowingly, affirmatively, and actively concealed safety information concerning AFFF or TOG and the serious risks associated with the use of and exposure to AFFF or TOG.

250. Based on the foregoing, Defendants are estopped from relying on any statute of limitations in defense of this action.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

251. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against all Defendants, jointly and severally, on each of the above-referenced claims and Causes of Action as follows:

- a) Awarding compensatory damages to Plaintiff for past and future damages, including but not limited to pain and suffering for severe and permanent personal injuries sustained by the Plaintiff, health care costs, and medical monitoring, together with interest and costs as provided by law;
- b) Punitive and/or exemplary damages for the wanton, willful, fraudulent, and/or reckless acts of the Defendants who demonstrated a complete disregard and reckless indifference for the safety and welfare of the Plaintiff and of the general public and to the Plaintiff in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter future similar conduct;
- c) Awarding Plaintiff attorneys' fees;
- d) Awarding Plaintiff the costs of these proceedings; and
- e) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

The Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Bell Legal Group, LLC**

/s/ Gabrielle A. Sulpizio

J. Edward Bell, III (#1280)

Randolph L. Lee (#74532)

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December 28, 2023

Georgetown, South Carolina